

CITY OF OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK

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Office of the Interim City Manager



TO: Mayor, City Council, and Public

SUBJECT: Monthly Update: July 2023

DATE: August 4, 2023 *ALS*

The intent of the update is to provide the City Council and members of the public with an update from departments recapping accomplishment, providing project updates, and announcements from the month of July 2023.

Grant Updates

Recent Awards

- July 26, 2023 – St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency
 - 2023 Community Development and Environmental Improvement Program
 - Project Cost: \$50,000
 - \$10,000 grant for improvements to the Dobisky Visitor Center including fire suppression, and HVAC.

Pending Applications

- Department of State, Smart Growth Zoning Update
 - Submitted July 27, 2023
- Water and Wastewater for E. David Street: Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) – Intended Use Plan Listing
 - Submitted June 16, 2023
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Urban and Community Forestry Grant Application: seeking \$46,000 to update the city's Tree Inventory and Management Plan
 - Submitted June 21, 2023
- Preserve New York, Historic Structures Report for the Oswegatchie Pump House
 - Submitted March 2023
 - Project costs \$21,000
- FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant
 - Project: AFG funding to reestablish and broaden our Water Response Team, to include: open water rescue, SCUBA (Dive Team), EMS response to water emergencies, and an initial fire suppression response
 - Submitted February 2023

Upcoming Submissions and Deadlines

- August 11, 2023 – NYS Water Infrastructure Grants
 - E. David Street Reconstruction Project (water and wastewater)
 - Water Infrastructure Improvements Act (WIIA)
 - Water Infrastructure Improvements Act (WIIA)
 - Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP)

Project Updates

Vacancy Process – The 30-day period to fill the vacancy on Council, as prescribed by §C-10 c (2), has expired. While Council has followed the process thus far, there has not been a majority vote cast in support of any candidate. It will continue to be the obligation of the City Council to fill the vacant seat through December 31, 2023.

Assessments – Change of Assessment letters were mailed on Thursday, July 27th to all persons having grieved their tentative assessment. Friday, July 28th the city has published the Final Assessment Roll in advance of the August 1st deadline. It is available to review in person during office hours Monday – Thursday 8 AM to 4 PM pursuant to the laws of New York State. The final assessment roll is also available for viewing on the City of Ogdensburg website – www.ogdensburg.org and the St. Lawrence County website – www.stlawco.org

In summary:

City of Ogdensburg Assessment Data	
2022 Final Taxable Assessment	286,137,636
2023 Final Taxable Assessment	357,263,756
Increase in Assessments	71,126,120
% Increase over 2022	24.86%
2023 Tentative Assessments	370,560,578
2023 Final Taxable Assessment	357,263,756
Decrease in Assessments	13,296,822
% overall decrease	3.59%

Kiwanis Cleanup – From January to April 2023 U.S. Ecology has been providing an excavator, operator, field technician and an environmental technician for the purpose of field screening soil, excavating soils, loading soils and performing backfill operations. During daily excavation operations, the soil was examined continuously for characteristic petroleum staining and odors as well as screened for the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) using a calibrated PID meter equipped with a 10.6 eV lamp. Initial PID readings ranged well above 500 ppm and the PID readings drop off significantly at about 8-9 feet with the presence of a clay layer and the average static groundwater level. Average soil removal depth is approximately 8-9 feet.

The excavation area has been broken down into individual Tracts every 30 feet in an east west direction and 30 feet in a north south direction. Exhibit B-Site Excavation Diagram. Post excavation soil confirmation samples were obtained along the north wall, south wall, east wall, west wall, and excavation floor locations for each individual tract. Depending upon the extent of each Tract excavation area, occasionally more than 5 soil samples were obtained from each Tract. To prevent groundwater intrusion, each area was immediately backfilled with sand imported by Stout Ready Mix, Inc. from an off-site sand pit in Brier Hill, NY. The soil samples and chain of custody documentation were sent to Pace Analytical Services, LLC located in East Longmeadow, MA for analysis. Samples were analyzed for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) and Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOC) via Method 8260/ 8270, respectively and compared to the DEC Commissioner’s Policy, (CP-51) Standards for unrestricted use.

During January to April 2023, USE excavated and removed a total of 11,553.67 tons of contaminated soil for off-site disposal. The soil excavated and removed through April 30, 2023, appears to have successfully removed the petroleum impacted soil within the PID action levels established. The excavated areas were backfilled with clean imported sand and mechanically compacted.

Personnel

Department of Public Works and Recreation

- Brush Landfill is open to public Monday through Friday, and Saturday from 8AM to 12PM.
- Mid-summer brush pick-up is complete.
- First round of street paving is complete and streets are currently under evaluation for a second round of paving.
- The city's 16 combine sewer overflows (CSO) are inspected monthly and the 2 CSO's located at the wastewater treatment facility are metered and monitored daily. In the month of June 2023, there were 2 metered overflow events at the WWTP and 2 estimated overflow events within the collection system. All CSO overflow events were reported utilizing the NYAlter electronic reporting system.
- The pool received a series of donations that will allow the pool to offer free public swimming for the entire pool season. Thank you to those that donated, specifically, IAFF Local 1799, America 1 Realty, and Jreck Subs.

Fire Department and Police

- On July 26th the city's Fire and Police Chiefs attended the NY State First Responder Summit in Washington D.C. at the invitation of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. The summit provided and opportunity for networking with other Chiefs from NY and federal officials as well as the opportunity to meet with the Director of C.O.P.S Division to discuss funding opportunities. Chief Kearns met with the Director of Homeland Security State and Local Liaison regarding funding opportunities for equipment, training and projects related to law enforcement.
- Community Issues
 - Hamilton Street Park - The Police Department has received numerous complaints of youth congregating in the park after 10 PM, resulting in issues with neighbors and damage to the Kelly memorial. Increased police patrols will be provided and the parental responsibility portion of the OMC will be strictly enforced. Anyone who witnesses violations is encouraged to call 911 and report suspicious activities.